

**DDS South Region  
Regional Advisory and Planning Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2014**

**Members Present:** Chair Carol Cooney, Jean Brookman, David Cassano (new member), Jeff DePina, Susan Gardner, Steve Harney, Diane Martin and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Region Regional Director

**Guests:** Heidi Earle and Margaret Mummert

**Call to Order:** Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**Introductions:** All made introductions.

**Citizen Comment:** None presented.

**Approval of Minutes:** Review ensued of the September 17, 2014, meeting minutes. *In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2014, meeting.*

**Chairperson's Report:**

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update** - The Workgroup has decided to refocus its efforts on legislative outreach. The group has concluded that the real challenge is securing funding for services and supports. Although housing is tabled for the time being, the last few months have served to educate the workgroup on a myriad of issues related to housing for people with ID and have charted the course for next steps. Meetings continue to be held on the second Thursday of every month at Acton Library in Old Saybrook at 6:00 p.m.
- **Field Activities Update** - Tabled.

**Administrative Updates:**

Regional Director Thomas Dailey provided further response to the list of comments and questions presented to him by former Chair Jean Brookman at the last meeting. Next, he reported on the following:

- REM Closure
- DDS Rescissions
- State Budget Deficit
- Waiting List Initiative
- Children's Services

**Old Business:**

- **2015 Council Goals/Priorities** - Following discussion, the Council identified legislative advocacy and bridging the gap between LEAs and DDS as goals for 2015.
- **Membership** - On the Council's behalf, the Regional Director's office sent a letter to

Michelle Weaving to determine her interest in continued membership. Ms. Weaving was asked to respond by December 1<sup>st</sup>, if she wished to remain on the Council.

The Regional Director's office reported that member Stauffer has confirmed her continued efforts to recruit a new member from the New London area.

In response to a past inquiry, Thomas Dailey reported that there is no provision for rotating appointments to the Council; however, the Council could invite LEAs to attend Council meetings as members of the public on a rotating basis on their own. The Regional Director's office will email the 2015 schedule of meetings to local LEAs.

**New Business:**

- **2015 Schedule of Meetings** - The 2015 schedule of RAC meetings was reviewed and approved.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DDS South Regional Advisory and Planning Council is January 21, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Jolie Crescimano-Goss*

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Executive Secretary

DDS South Region